AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 5, 8-29 and 33-56, amend claims 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 as follows and add new claims 57-61 as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A digital media communications and control system comprising:

a. a plurality of audio devices, each of the devices including a device interface module for communication of digital audio data and control data from at least one of the devices to at least one other of the devices;

b. a universal data link operatively connected to each of the device interface modules; ~~and~~

c. the device interface modules and universal data links are operative in combination to connect the devices together in the system and provide full duplex communication of the digital audio data and control data between the devices~~.~~; and

d. wherein each data link includes a conventional CAT5 network cable terminated by conventional RJ-45 connectors.

Claim 2 (currently amended) The system of Claim 1 wherein each data link comprises ~~a single cable~~ one and only one of said CAT5 network cables connecting a pair of the devices.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The system of Claim 1 further comprising a network hub and wherein at least some of the data links comprise said CAT5 network cables connecting the device interface modules to the hub in a network topology whereby the digital audio data and control data that are communicated over the data links are accessible by each of the devices linked to the hub without having a direct connection between devices.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The system of ~~either Claim 2 or Claim 3~~ Claim 1 wherein ~~the~~ each CAT5 network cable includes ~~means for providing~~ four twisted wire pairs, two of said pairs carrying phantom power to the devices.

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (currently amended) The system of ~~either of Claims 1, 3, or 5~~ Claim 1 wherein the audio devices comprise audio transducer devices, the transducer devices including one or more devices selected from a group comprising musical instruments, microphones, headphones, audio speakers, and audio recording devices.

Claim 7 (original) The system of Claim 6 wherein the audio devices further comprise audio controller devices, the controller devices including one or more devices selected from a group comprising audio amplifiers and system control devices.

Claims 8-29 (canceled)

Claim 30 (original) The system of Claim 3 wherein the device interface modules are operative to direct digital audio signals and control signal generated by a source audio device to one or more target audio devices connected to the system.

Claim 31 (original) The system of Claim 30 wherein the target devices are changeable by a user while the source and target audio devices are actively connected to the system.

Claim 32 (original) The system of Claim 1 wherein functions performed by one of the audio devices can be shared by more than one of the other devices connected to the system.

Claims 33-56 (canceled)

Claim 57 (new) The system of Claim 1 wherein the audio and control data are in big endian order.

Claim 58 (new) The system of Claim 1 wherein the control data includes Message In Progress (MIP) and Clear To Send (CTS) bits to allow the audio devices receiving the data to manage control packet buffer space.

Claim 59 (new) The system of Claim 7, wherein:

each CAT5 network cable includes four wire pairs, two of said pairs being dedicated to carrying said digital audio data and control data;

each of said audio transducer devices includes an RJ-45 jack wired in a type A configuration;

each of said audio controller devices includes an RJ-45 jack wired in a type B configuration; and

wherein the type A and B configurations provide a cross-over function so that data transmitted from each audio transducer device may be received by one of the audio controller devices.

Claim 60 (new) A digital media communications and control system comprising:

a. a plurality of audio devices, each of the devices including a device interface module for communication of digital audio data and control data from at least one of the devices to at least one other of the devices;

b. a universal data link operatively connected to each of the device interface modules;

c. the device interface modules and universal data links are operative in combination to connect the devices together in the system and provide full duplex communication of the digital audio data and control data between the devices; and

d. wherein the audio and control data are in big endian order.

Claim 61 (new) A digital media communications and control system comprising:

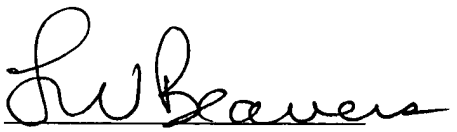
a. a plurality of audio devices, each of the devices including a device interface module for communication of digital audio data and control data from at least one of the devices to at least one other of the devices;

b. a universal data link operatively connected to each of the device interface modules;

c. the device interface modules and universal data links are operative in combination to connect the devices together in the system and provide full duplex communication of the digital audio data and control data between the devices; and

d. wherein the control data includes Message in Progress (MTP) and Clear To Send (CTS) bits to allow the audio devices receiving the data to manage control packet buffer space.

Respectfully submitted,



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